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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (6 Mar 68) FOR OT RD-674164

8 March 1968

AD 388846

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 12th  
Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

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as

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KENNETH G. WICKHAM

Major General, USA

The Adjutant General

APR 4 1968

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 12TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP  
APO 96266

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AVGC-SC

11 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (ORLL) (RCS CSFOR-65)  
for Quarterly Period ending 31 October 1967 (UIC CTPA)

TO: See Distribution

A. GENERAL:

1. (C) The 12th Combat Aviation Group continued to furnish outstanding support to units in the II Field Force Vietnam area. Units within the group continued to exceed the established flying hour program in order to support the heavy operational commitments. During the quarter there was a marked increase in the use of CH-47 aircraft by ground units. One assault helicopter company was TDY the entire period supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade within I Field Force Vietnam area. Another assault helicopter company was placed on TDY at the end of September to support the III Marine Amphibious Force in I CTZ. During this quarter several units arrived in the group. One assault helicopter company and one assault support helicopter company became operational in September. The following units arrived during the month of October and will become fully operational early in the next reporting period: Three assault helicopter companies, one Corps aviation company, and one air cavalry squadron. Support of ARVN units was increased during the middle of the reporting period to such a point the daily combat assaults were now possible by these units. The Headquarters of 12th Combat Aviation Group satisfactorily completed its Annual General Inspection in September.

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3. MISSION:

1. (U) 12th Combat Aviation Group provides Army Aviation support to Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam/Senior Advisor, III Army Republic of Vietnam Corps and at the direction of the Commanding General II Field Force Vietnam, provides aviation support to United States, Republic of Vietnam, and Free World Military Assistance Forces in III Corps Tactical Zone.

2. (U) Provides Army aviation support as directed by COMUSMACV for support of United States, Republic of Vietnam, and Free World Military Assistance Forces in IV Corps Tactical Zone.

3. (U) Commands (less OFCON where specified) and administers assigned and attached Army aviation and support units.

C. ORGANIZATION:

1. (C) Organization of the 12th Combat Aviation Group during the reporting period included the following units with headquarters located as indicated:

- a. 12th Combat Aviation Group - Long Binh
- b. 11th Combat Aviation Battalion - Phu Loi
- c. 145th Combat Aviation Battalion - Bien Hoa
- d. 214th Combat Aviation Battalion - Bear Cat
- e. 222d Combat Support Aviation Battalion - Vung Tau
- f. 269th Combat Aviation Battalion - Cu Chi
- g. 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry - Di An
- h. 25th Aviation Company (Corps) - Long Binh

In addition, these units had elements stationed at Phouc Vinh, Lai Khe, Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh West, as well as field positions as called for by the tactical situation.

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2. (U) See Annex A and B.

D. COMMAND:

1. (C) On 7 August 1967, LTC John A. Todd assumed command of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, replacing Colonel Howard M. Moore.

2. (C) On 1 August 1967, LTC William L. Denend assumed command of the 222d Combat Support Aviation Battalion, replacing LTC Thomas E. Thompson.

E. PERSONNEL:

1. (C) Organizational Changes: During the past quarter the authorized and assigned strength of the group has been subject to frequent changes resulting from change in status of units in the group. The following units with authorized strengths as indicated were assigned to 12th Combat Aviation Group during the past quarter:

New Units Arriving and Authorized Strengths

	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
17th Avn Co (AML) (UH-1)	15	52	152	219
613th Trans Det	1	1	70	72
722d Sig Det	0	1	8	9
135th Avn Co (AML) (UH-1)	14	53	152	219
614th Trans Det	1	1	70	72
68th Sig Det	0	1	8	9
190th Avn Co (AML) (UH-1)	14	53	152	219
605th Trans Det	1	1	70	72
9th Sig Det	0	1	8	9
520th Med Det	1	0	8	9

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	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
195th Avn Co (AM) (UH-1)	15	52	152	219
609th Tran Det	1	1	70	72
366th Sig Det	0	1	8	9
242nd Avn Co (AM) (CH-47)	13	25	143	181
621st Trans Det	1	1	80	82
541st Med Det (attach to the 187th Avn Co)	1	0	8	9
25th Avn Co (Corps)	8	18	89	115
3rd Sqn, 17th Air Cav				
HQ&HQ Troop	19	6	157	182
A Troop	18	30	104	152
B Troop	18	30	104	152
C Troop	18	30	104	152
D Troop	5	0	127	132
39th Trans Det	0	0	68	68

2. (C) Organization of New Units: The 190th and 135th Aviation Companies are organized under MTOE 1-77G USCONARC 3/67, the same as the 188th 191st, and 240th Aviation Companies. The 17th and 195th Aviation Companies are organized under MTOE 1-77G, USCONARC 4/67. One company, the 187th Aviation Company, was changed from MTOE 1-77G USCONARC 3/67 to MTOE 1-77G USARPAC 1/67 which is how the original 12th Group UH-1 companies are organized (one more LT and one less WO). The 242nd Avn Co is organized under TOE 1-258F, the same as the 200th and 209th Aviation Companies. The 25th Aviation Company (Corps) is organized under TOE 1-127D (with change 8). The 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry is organized under TOE 17-95T. Its troops are organized under the following TO&E's: HQ&HQ Troop, TO&E 17-96T, USCONARC 1/67; Troop A, B, & C, TO&E 17-98T, USCONARC 1/67; Troop D, TO&E 17-99T, USCONARC 1/67.

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3. (C) Personnel Strengths:

a. Officer: The following table depicts the officer and warrant officer strength during the past quarter:

	AUTH	ASG(Incl Atch Excl Intransits)	PDY(Incl Atch)
1 Aug	1313	1165 (89%)	1105 (84%)
1 Sep	1425	1234 (87%)	1182 (83%)
1 Oct	1432	1246 (87%)	1175 (82%)
1 Nov	1842	1612 (87%)	1531 (83%)

b. Aviator: Relative aviator strength during this period has declined from slightly below manning level to about 4% under manning level strength. Officer aviator assigned vs warrant officer aviator assigned changed from 49% : 51% to 43% : 57%, thus continuing the trend toward the proper balance of commissioned and warrant officer aviators. The ratio of majors assigned to majors authorized dropped slightly from 3.1 : 2.9 : 1. During the reporting period there have been no shortages of particular officer skills.

c. Enlisted:

(1) The following table depicts the enlisted strength of the group during the past quarter:

	AUTH	ASG(Incl Atch Excl Intransits)	PDY(Incl Atch)
1 Aug	4978	5648 (113%)	5327 (107%)
1 Sep	5447	6038 (111%)	5708 (105%)
1 Oct	5512	5934 (108%)	5582 (101%)
1 Nov	6931	7321 (106%)	6982 (101%)

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(2) A shortage exists in the following MOS's:

MOS	AUTH	ASG	% SHORT
11F40	13	7	46%
26G20	6	3	50%
26M20	20	7	65%
67B20	102	78	33%
68A10	67	9	87%
68G20	135	101	25%
35C20	73	54	26%

4. (C) Casualties:

a. Casualties sustained by the units of the 12th Combat Aviation Group during the period 1 Aug 1967 - 31 Oct 1967 are:

	AUG	SEP	OCT
Dead not as a result of hostile action:	1	5	5
Killed in action:	3	2	0
Seriously injured in non-hostile accidents:	1	2	0
Wounded in action:	47	37	15
Injured non seriously in non-hostile accidents:	4	2	2

Monthly Totals:      56      48      22

b. During August, 6 members of the 12th Combat Aviation Group were lost in an aircraft and are being carried in missing status. One individual is being carried in missing status from an aircraft that disappeared in September. In addition, two personnel that disappeared on 9 June 1965 are still being carried as missing.

5. (U) Reenlistment:

Reenlistment statistics for the quarterly report period are:

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<u>1st Term</u>			<u>Career</u>			<u>US</u>			<u>ER/NG</u>		
Elig	Reenl	%	Elig	Reenl	%	Elig	Reenl	%	Elig	Reenl	%
102	10	9.8	36	35	97.2	268	1	0.4	0	0	0

## 6. (U) Awards and Decorations:

a. During this period 11,753 recommendations for awards were submitted and 10,347 awards were received. The following is a breakdown of the recommendations submitted and awards received:

	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
MOH	0	0
DSC	0	0
DSM	0	0
SS	28	26
LOM	10	7
DFC	264	225
SM	2	3
BS	285	205
AM"V"	231	185
AM	10543	9350
ACF	299	251
PH	91	95

## b. Accuracy is being emphasized at company level.

This has resulted in very few awards being returned for missing or incorrect information. With the new system for award of Air Medals far fewer individuals are returning to CONUS without the awards they deserve.

## 7. (U) Education:

During this period the Long Binh Post Education Center has expanded its facilities and is offering approximately twice as many University of Maryland courses. These courses, along with professional counseling, have recieved a very enthusiastic response from members of this command.

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8. (U) R & R:

a. The R&R utilization rate for this quarter is 96.1%.

Aug: 92.6%

Sep: 97.5%

Oct: 98.2%

b. Because of the recent command emphasis on the R&R program, the utilization rate has risen significantly.

c. Australia was recently opened as the 10th R&R site and indications are that it is one of the best.

d. A survey was recently taken regarding the desirability of Seoul, Korea as an R&R site without a favorable response by personnel within the group.

9. (U) Special Services: The Special Services Supply Depot in Saigon is making a genuine effort to obtain much needed Day Room furnishings. All other Special Services items are plentiful and the group is fully stocked at this time.

10. (U) Information Program:

a. During the reporting period the following printed material and pictorial releases were submitted:

HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASES	812
HOMETOWN PHOTOS	189
NEWS RELEASES	107
NEWS PHOTOS	60

b. 18 newsmen were supported during the reporting period. These included UPI newsmen and hometown newsmen who were in Vietnam to do stories on soldiers from their respective areas. There

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was one formal press interview conducted by 12th Combat Aviation Group personnel during the period.

c. During the reporting period 12th Combat Aviation Group units continued to participate in the USARV Daily Summary program by reporting the unit's significant events on a daily basis. This participation has enhanced the information program tremendously. Although the administrative requirement is increased, the results justify the effort.

d. The group's Command Information Program continued to receive emphasis. A Command Information Fact Sheet is prepared and disseminated to subordinate units on a weekly basis. This fact sheet is used to supplement information received from higher headquarters. Numerous posters were received from higher headquarters during the reporting period and these in turn were distributed to subordinate units within 12th Group. At the present time, written information is the best means available for the dissemination of Command Information to the individual soldier at company level. This headquarters continues to prepare and distribute a weekly bulletin to all 12th Group units. Four subordinate units, the 11th, 222d, 214th, and 269th publish unit newspapers. The 12th Group Information Office published the first two issues of the "BLACKJACK FLYER" newspaper during this reporting period. This newspaper will continue to be published on a monthly basis.

11. (U) Civic Action:

a. During the reporting period all 12th Group units were engaged in Civic Action activities. The Group sponsored 33

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projects on a continuing basis which represents an increase of four additional projects for this quarter.

b. Progress was made in three areas:

(1) Construction: Construction effort on roads and churches in the vicinity of Lai Khe continued and is proving to be a valuable tool in development of the area Civic Action Program. The "Chieu Hoi" hamlet scheduled for Vung Tau is still in the planning stage and the completion date of December will probably not be met. However, it is anticipated that construction will commence.

(2) Commodity Distribution: Commodity distribution continued to be used effectively to augment existing local resources. Voluntary contributions were disbursed to local villages which enhanced the US-Vietnamese relationships, needed to obtain the objectives of the Civic Action Program.

(3) The group MEDCAP efforts continued to be well received. Although the Vietnamese National Elections curtailed the MEDCAP visits for a short period, two thousand one hundred and fifty Vietnamese received medical treatment during the reporting period.

c. Particular emphasis on assistance to the young and innocent victims of the conflict is being used in the attempt to gain long term goodwill with the up-coming generation. English instruction to Vietnamese students increased over the last reporting period. One hundred and ninety-two Vietnamese students received English instruction on a weekly basis,

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12. (U) Civilian Personnel:

The 12th Combat Aviation Group is presently authorized 400 spaces for the direct hire of local nationals. This is a decrease of 14 spaces from the last quarter. The total spaces are further allocated to 33 companies within the command. In keeping with MACV and USARV guidelines for civilian personnel, this command is re-viewing local national hiring policies. Hiring has been limited to essential positions.

13. (U) Sundry Funds, Clubs, and Fesses:

The 12th Combat Aviation Group has a total of 30 Sundry Fund Clubs authorized and operating throughout the command. The gross income of these funds for the quarter ending 30 September 1967 was approximately \$345,000. The average gross income per month per club was \$3,722. There has been increased emphasis on placing qualified personnel in management positions. This has been reflected in an increase in gross income for these clubs. The overall average gross income was lower for this quarter due to an addition of 5 new clubs.

14. (U) Chaplain Activities:

- a. Emphasis this quarter has been on troop visitation and contact by the Chaplains. Replacement and rotating personnel are interviewed by the Chaplains and necessary counseling has been provided as required. Troop duty and day rooms are regularly visited. Office hours for counseling are scheduled, and appointments are made as required.
- b. Worship Services are conducted in battalion and isolated company areas. The Chaplains also provide area coverage in

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Services for other units. Services are conducted in conference rooms, libraries, day rooms and mess halls, as well as in Chapels. The 269th Combat Aviation Battalion recently completed the remodeling of part of a building to provide a combination Chapel-Briefing Room. Increased opportunities in religious education have been provided by additional study groups and the showing of religious films.

c. The Group Chaplain has frequently visited the Battalion Chaplains and all battalion and company areas to provide supervision, coordination, and support for Chaplain activities. A Character Guidance Briefing and Training Conference in which all the Chaplains participate is held by the Group Chaplain each month.

d. Chaplain Activities provided in group this quarter were:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>OCCASIONS</u>	<u>CHANGE FROM LAST QTR</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
Group Worship	146	+28%	4,369	+5%
Religious Education	113	+43%	2,112	+69%
Pastoral Visits (Includes Counseling)	2,620	+111%	-	-
Character Guidance	41	+24%	7,663	+50%
Civic Action	24	+41%	-	-

F. INTELLIGENCE:

1. (C) Security:

a. The S-2 Section continued in its capacity as the focal point of command guidance throughout the Group for matters pertaining to personnel security and safeguarding of classified material.

b. During the period 25-29 September 1967, the Headquarters underwent its annual IG Inspection by the USARV IG team.

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The S-2 Section received an outstanding rating.

c. The Group headquarters continues to maintain a very good security posture. Security posters were displayed in all staff sections, and no security violations were noted during the reporting period. The S-2 Section conducted CI inspections of all staff sections, noting only minor deficiencies. These deficiencies were corrected on the spot. The section itself received no CI inspection other than the inspection by the IG.

d. On 4 September, Mr. Powers, Special Agent, 219th MID, conducted an inspection of the S-2 office to determine the possibility of open storage of classified information. Meeting the requirements set forth in para 11, II Field Force Vietnam Regulation 380-5, and section 4, USARV Regulation 380-5, open storage of CONFIDENTIAL material was granted. The open storage was requested to facilitate the posting of Combat Intelligence on a Situation Map.

e. Upon arrival of a new Assistant S-2, several control positions were changed within the headquarters. The Asst S-2 assumed control of all classified documents, thus becoming the Custodian of Classified Documents and the TOP SECRET Control Officer.

f. Upon completion of the IG inspection, the Section received the M-4 destruction kits requisitioned through supply channels. After opening the crates, it was discovered that the material has received water damage and could not be used. As a result, the kits were returned to supply for disposal. It was noted that the kits were large and cumbersome and took up valuable space in the security containers.

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Headquarters, rescinding USARV Regulation 380-9, and informing addressees of the revision of regulation 380-5. To date, the new regulation has not been received.

h. Instructions were also received from USARV that major subordinate commanders were authorized to grant SECRET clearances. In addition, permission was received to sub-delegate this authority to lower echelons of command if desired. The group is in the process of publishing a regulation 60A-5 in which this authority will be delegated to the Battalion CO's.

2. (C) Statistics:

a. The classified repository and distribution facility operated by the S-2 Section processed approximately 16,345 incoming and outgoing pieces of classified material and reviewed the files for the destruction and downgrading of all classified documents on two separate occasions, as a result, over 101 SECRET documents were destroyed. The repository contained 105 SECRET documents at the close of the period.

b. Also during the period, a total of 279 security clearances were validated throughout the group.

c. Map processing continued to be an S-2 function which received considerable emphasis. A total of 30,258 maps were processed and passed on to subordinate levels. In addition, the section maintains a stockpile level of approximately 10 copies per each map sheet of the entire III CTZ plus portions of the Western IV CTZ, and Western II CTZ. These maps are maintained in both

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1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scale; also a limited number of picto maps and 1:2,500,000 scale maps are kept for special projects.

d. The section continued to maintain a spot intelligence net and a total of 81 reports were received from in-flight aircraft during the period.

3. (C) Lost SOI's:

a. Six SOI's were lost within the group during the last three months. Losses were attributed to several causes:

(1) Failure to comply with unit Standing Operating Procedures.

(2) Failure to secure the SOI to the individual or a part of his clothing during flight operations.

(3) Aircraft lost or missing in action.

b. In almost all cases a formal investigation was required and conducted, resulting in long hours of work for the investigating officer. In a few instances, only a preliminary investigation was conducted to determine if a security violation had in fact occurred. After discovering that none had occurred, a formal investigation was not required. Conducting a preliminary investigation shortened considerably the required man-hours and still fulfilled the requirements of security regulations.

4. (C) Aerial Surveillance and Reconnaissance:

Effective 22 September 1967, the 73rd Avn Co (Aerial Surveillance) was released from operational control by MACV J-2 and is now being mission tasked by G-2 Air XI FFV. Its mission is to provide surveillance support to US, RVNAR, and Free World Military Assistance Forces in III CTZ.

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5. (U) Personnel Changes:

Early in August, the group received a new Assistant S-2, and a new escape and evasion Officer. In addition, a new classified repository clerk was received.

6. (U) Staff Visits and Liaison:

a. On a weekly basis, representatives of the section continued to conduct staff visits to the subordinate battalions. These visits continued to provide the battalion S-2's with guidance and assistance pertaining to intelligence matters. In addition, mutual problems were discussed, often resulting in changes in established policies and procedures.

b. The section made frequent liaison visits to USARV, II FFV, and 1st Aviation Brigade headquarters. During these visits, briefings were often attended and in many cases individual briefings were received.

.. (U) Initial Orientation Folder:

a. To assist with the processing of newly arriving personnel into the group, the S-2 Section published an orientation folder (Annex C). This folder contained such information as:

- 1) Glossary of terms in common usage.
- 2) Highlights of the political and military situations.
- 3) VC/FVA unit organization.
- (4) War Worthy registration procedures.
- (5) The SAEDA program
- (6) Military Security

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(7) Enemy situation in the III CTZ.

(8) Escape and Evasion program.

b. This folder was given out to help supplement the S-2 SAEDA/security program as well as provide information on the highlights of the political and military situation.

8. (C) Order of Battle Map.

An order of Battle Map was developed to depict the current disposition of enemy units. The map was designed for use by the headquarters personnel and staff as a supplement to the weekly intelligence briefing. Additionally, a small OB card was printed and included in the group SOI for use by the aviators and to assist in-flight identification of enemy units on the ground.

9. (C) Escape and Evasion:

a. During the month of September CPT Brownlee was assigned as the group Escape and Evasion Officer.

b. During the week of 25-29 September, the E & E Program was inspected by LTC Nelson, a member of the USARV IG team. The program received an outstanding rating.

c. For the reporting period, the E & E Officer conducted staff visits with the subordinate battalions. The visits provided the battalion E & E Officers with guidance and assistance as pertains to Survival, Escape and Evasion, lessons learned, and quotas for the survival schools in the Philippines and Okinawa.

d. During October, the group E & E Officer made a Liaison Visit, as a representative of Headquarters, USARV, to the Naval Survival School, at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, in order to obtain additional quotas to the Naval Survival School. The visit

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was successful and resulted in a 50% increase of quotas beginning 1 November 1967.

e. In the last three months the 12th Group has sent 28 men to the Naval Survival School, and 15 men to the Sea Survival School. These quotas are insufficient to meet the minimal requirements of the 12th Combat Aviation Group. This minimal requirement is based on the necessity of providing four school trained individuals per aviation company. These individuals then conduct platoon survival training.

10. (U) The War Trophy Program: The IG team inspected the war trophy registration procedures in this headquarters. No discrepancies were noted. The inspecting officer also inspected the subordinate battalion registration program finding no discrepancies. On 16 October 1967, representatives of the group S-2 procured a number of war trophies from 1st Brigade, 9th US Infantry Division. These trophies will be displayed in the BLACKJACK Museum. Description of the weapons are as follows:

- a. CHICOM 75mm Recoilless Rifle, Model 52.
- b. CHICOM 60mm Mortar, Type 31.
- c. CHICOM Heavy MG, 12.7mm.
- d. CHICOM Light MG, 7.62mm, Type 51
- e. German MG, MG 34, 7.92mm.
- f. US Browning water-cooled, Heavy MG, M-1917A1, .30 cal, w/tripod.
- g. CHICOM, Heavy MG, Type 53, 7.62mm.
- h. Soviet Submachinegun, PPsh 41, CHICOM Type 50, 7.62mm.

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G. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING:

1. (C) Group Combat Assault:

On 17 August 1967, the 12th Combat Aviation Group conducted a three (3) battalion combat assault into a pineapple plantation South East of Duc Hoa. Three (3) landing zones were used to allow for simultaneous landings of approximately 70 lift ships. Three lifts were completed in less than one hour and put over 1200 troops on the ground. Maximum utilization was made of Air Force pre-strike and artillery preparation which was followed by a landing zone preparation by gunships. All phases of the operation was controlled by the group commander and the ground commander airborne in the group command and control helicopter. The assault was completed without the loss of an aircraft or crewmember.

2. (C) Stationing: During the quarter the 12th Combat Aviation Group witnessed the arrival of the following units:

a. The 190th Assault Helicopter Company arrived on 9 August 1967, and became operational at Bien Hoa on 8 September 1967.

b. The 242nd Assault Support Helicopter Company arrived on 11 August 1967, and became operational at Bien Hoa on 15 September 1967.

c. The 17th Assault Helicopter Company arrived on 5 October 1967, and is stationed at Long Binh. This unit will be fully operational early in the next quarter.

d. The 135th Assault Helicopter Company arrived on 6 October 1967, and is stationed at Vung Tau. This unit will be fully operational early in the next quarter.

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e. The 195th Assault Helicopter Company arrived on 31 October 1967 and is stationed at Long Binh. This unit will become fully operational in the next quarter.

f. The 25th Aviation Company (Corps) arrived on 20 October 1967 and is stationed at Long Binh. This unit will become fully operational early in the next quarter.

g. The 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry arrived on 31 October 1967 and is stationed at Di An. This unit will become fully operational early in the next quarter.

3. (C) Training:

a. Unit Training: With the arrival of so many units during the quarter, the Group continued its complex but workable system of cross-training aviation personnel between battalions and companies within the group. Aviator personnel received fifteen (15) days of in-country individual training with experienced units before being returned to their parent unit.

b. New Equipment Training: The Cobra New Equipment Training Team arrived on 1 September 1967 to conduct pilot, mechanic, engine, and avionics training on the Cobra. The first of many classes to be conducted by this team commenced on 25 September 1967. The first pilots to complete transition returned to the 334th Armed Helicopter Company to conduct fire team and platoon training prior to becoming operational on 22 October 1967 with five (5) Cobras.

c. Maintenance Training: The AAMTAP courses conducted at Vung Tau continues to be an invaluable assistance to the units of the 12th Combat Aviation Group. The demand for quotas still exceeds the number of quotas available.

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d. Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) Pilot Training:

This quarter saw the graduation of seven VNAF aviators from UH-1D transition training conducted by the 12th Combat Aviation Group. The individual pilot averaged 250 hours of pilot time during their 90 day transition program. These aviators were returned to VNAF as well trained UH-1D pilots.

e. Standardization: An accelerated standardization program has been initiated. The emphasis being placed on new units arriving in-country that are assigned to the group. This is to ensure that the units are briefed on all aspects of the group standardization program and aviator training and orientation prior to becoming operational. Constant effort is being placed on IP and SIP training for in-country units and new arrivals.

H. LOGISTICS:

1. (C) Supply:

a. Body Armor: Body armor remains an item of command interest and control. Only small quantities have been received through the supply distribution system during the past 90 days. Projected arrival date in-country for quantities on requisition remains unknown. Extreme shortages exist in the command, particularly within units recently arriving in-country and soon to become operational for combat missions.

b. Aircrewman's Fragmentation Helmet (AFH-1): The "ballistic helmet" remains in critically short supply. No additional assets were received and existing assets are being reduced by operational losses. A helmet sizing problem was encountered which is delaying procurement of additional helmets. The expected arrival time of AFH-1 helmets in Vietnam is the second and fourth quarters of CY-1968. In an attempt to alleviate

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some sizing problems and other faults, a helmet modification team with retrofit parts has arrived in-country. Application of the MWO will commence upon distribution of the retrofit parts. Retrofit parts include new sizing pads, chin pad, nape cord, visor housing screws, etc.

c. Command Distribution of Equipment: New items of equipment were received and distributed through Command Channels to user level without the accompanying equipment authorization. This created an increased administrative burden at unit level and caused confusion during preparation of Army Equipment Status Reports.

2. (C) Aircraft Maintenance:

a. A favorable trend for total flying hours per unit was established in the month of September when UH-1 units were held to 2800 flying hours per month or below. Previous months' experiences indicated some units flying 3400 hours which was stretching maintenance manhours and logistics to the breaking point and affecting aircraft availability adversely. October statistics, which are not yet conclusive, may indicate some violations of the September trends. It has been established during this quarter that UH-1 units flying more than 2800 hours per month experienced adverse aircraft availability trends.

b. New CH-47 units were found to be experiencing difficulties in keeping an adequate flying hour spread in order to systematically conduct the 6th periodic inspection. The 6th periodic inspection is the PE in which major components are replaced. It was determined that CH-47 units should not be committed for more than six aircraft per day nor be programmed to fly more than a total of 800 hours for two to three months prior to the 6th PE. It was further re-learned that, although availability

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may be ten aircraft, the daily commitment should never exceed six aircraft at one time during the day except for tactical emergency requirements.

c. Overflying the prescribed flying hour program has not only strained the manpower capability of the command, but the supply system has been heavily taxed as well. For example, the CH-47 Servo-Actuator, FSN 1650-226-6273, has been completely exhausted from the supply system. New actuators are not presently being manufactured, but a repair capability exists in-country. Due to a heavy burden on supply personnel, these actuators (when found unserviceable) have not been returned to the system. The supply could have routed the actuators to the repair facility and returned them in serviceable condition to the operating elements. The lesson learned here should relate to all repairable supplies. When the supply system is heavily burdened as it is in this command, re-turning of repairables back into the supply system is essential.

### I. SIGNAL

#### 1. (C) Command Post Communications:

a. During the preceding reporting period the command's post communications of the 12th Combat Aviation Group were enhanced with additional radio, teletype, and telephone capability. Additional AN/VSC-2's were received and sent to three battalions which have companies located remotely from the battalion base of operations. A total of 12 AN/VSC-2's are now assigned to the Group. The AN/TRC 146 SSB High Frequency Radio set was issued to those battalions operating from a fixed base location, i.e. 145th at Bien Hoa and 222d at Vung Tau. This action allowed more AN/VSC-2's to be issued or be available for issue to deploying companies within Southeast Asia. With issuance of this new equipment, all AN/GRC-46's and AN/MRC-95's will be turned back in through supply channels. Daily operational checks are made by Group to organic battalions using the

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and normal mode for teletype traffic.

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b. Within the Long Binh/Plantation/12th Group Headquarters area, a changeover to the automatic dial system for telephones assisted greatly in reducing the traffic load on all local manual switchboards. All of the battalions are now on or anticipated to be on automatic dial telephone system within the next sixty days. Eventually, direct dial should be possible throughout the entire 12th Group (III Corps) area.

c. Looking ahead to the future, a distribution list for the KY-8's down to company level has been prepared and also a BOI for KY-28's (authorized for all aircraft) has been established. With the arrival of this new equipment a completely secure air-to-air and air-to-ground command/operational FM radio net will be possible within the 12th Combat Aviation Group.

2. (C) Air Traffic Control and Navigation Aids:

The 12th Group Signal Officer was appointed the II Field Forces Vietnam Air Traffic Control as an additional duty. Initial projects undertaken included the establishment of air traffic flow patterns within the Long Binh/Plantation area to meet the increasing density of aircraft caused by newly assigned units. The problem on the AN/TRN-25 beacon should be overcome with the arrival of the ECOM team to modify discrepancies found by recent tactical use of the beacon. All AN/GRN-6 beacons are being returned to CONUS for rehabilitation and installation of air conditioning to assist in proper operation in Southeast Asia. Additional studies are being made by the ATC Officer and the Safety Officer on the proper utilization of Air Traffic Controllers (MOS 93B) throughout III Corps to insure that more effective control of air traffic is instituted at divisional base airfields.

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3. (U) NOTAM and Weather Service:

NOTAM service continues to be run effectively throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone of operations. Weather service available from the 12th Group has been reduced somewhat due to the establishment of local weather facilities in battalion areas of operation.

4. (C) SOI:

The 12th Group SOI's have continued to be used most effectively throughout the area by many tactical units. Distribution has now surpassed the one thousand level within III Corps.

5. (C) Avionics:

a. The Signal Detachments (RL) and TC Detachments (AB) continue to be deployed with shortages of test equipment and float. These critical shortages severely impair the maintenance capability and make meeting the scheduled operational dates very difficult. These problems are largely solved by redistribution of in-country assets. Also the combining of several detachments to support all aircraft on an area basis has proven very satisfactory.

b. Command consoles (AN/ASC-10 and AN/ASC-11) continued to be received and installed in the C & C aircraft throughout the Group. These sets contribute greatly to the expansion of command and control capabilities of commanders by providing additional communication equipment.

J. AVIATION SAFETY:

1. (U) General:

Again, as in the last quarter, an overall reduction in the accident rate of the Group has been realized. The accident rate was reduced from 32.9 in the previous quarter to 26.0 in this reporting period.

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2. (U) Summary of Significant Cause Factors.

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tail Rotor Strike	0	2	4	6
Material Failure	0	1	1	2
Engine Failure	2	0	3	5
Lost RPM (downwind)	1	7	0	8
Ground Loop	3	0	0	3
Practice Autorotations	0	2	0	2
Weather Associated	0	0	2	2
Other	4	0	8	12

3. (U) Discussion of Factors:

a. Of the recurring cause factors two are most noteworthy - Tail Rotor Strike and Loss of RPM.

(1) Tail Rotor Strike: Of the 6 mishaps, 4 occurred during formation operations in which the pilot at the controls flared the aircraft excessively in a water filled rice paddy, or in an LZ cluttered with obstacles. Increased flight discipline by the flight leader is being pursued to produce a better and safer formation by eliminating the need for a large flare at the termination of approach.

(2) Loss of RPM: These seven mishaps in September were attributed to aircraft overloaded for conditions. Three aviators attempted a downwind take-off, and four occurred during downwind assaults into landing zones. As noted, there were no mishaps of this nature in October primarily due to a reevaluation of our methods of operation and command emphasis.

b. Ground Loop:

The reduction in the total O-1 flying hours given to

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students at the Aviation School has required this command to provide additional cross wind training for new fixed-wing aviators when they arrive.

K. MEDICAL:

1. (C) Summary of medical activities:

a. Aspirations for increasing the Aviation Medical Officer strength have come true at the end of this quarter. Recent arrivals now provide the 12th Combat Aviation Group with eighteen physicians (Flight Surgeons). EM strength to fill vacant slots in the respective medical detachments has also improved. Resources have been distributed evenly throughout the command and consideration given to supporting those units on TDY.

b. Staff visits have been made throughout the command. The health of the command remains excellent and a successful preventive medicine program is in evidence throughout. The last 12th Group Flight Surgeon's meeting was well attended. All of the rotating surgeons summarized their efforts during their tour for the edification of the newly arrived flight surgeons.

c. The ballistic helmet survey team representing Natick Laboratories recently conducted a seminar on the use of a modification kit which will assist in correcting deficiencies which are now present in the ballistic helmet. A demonstration was given and a general discussion with a question and answer period was held for the group surgeons. These kits will be available throughout the command through S-4 channels at the beginning of November.

d. An active immunization program is being adopted into MEDCAP. Assistance is being given by the provincial public health officer

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and is further available to the surgeons through the command. Vaccines and the assistance of a Korean preventive medicine team are also available.

e. With the arrival of new aviation units into the command two new dispensaries are being proposed for construction. One at Long Binh (93rd Medical Detachment, 214th Aviation Battalion) behind the 12th Group headquarters, which will serve the 17th Assault Helicopter Co, the 25th Aviation Co (Corps), in addition to general support for the Long Binh/Plantation area. The other dispensary (540th Med Det, 269th Avn Bn) in the planning stages will be located at Tay Ninh.

f. All mess halls within the group are cooperating to meet standards prescribed. The 12th Combat Aviation Group Hq mess hall recently received the outstanding mess hall award from II Field Forces, Vietnam.

g. The preventive medicine immunization program throughout the command is receiving one hundred percent cooperation in maintaining up-to-date shot records. Influenza vaccine is being given at the present time.

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COM ANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PART I

OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

- A. PERSONNEL: None
- B. OPERATIONS: None
- C. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION:

1. (U) Item: Shortage of Instructor Pilots

Discussion: There remains a critical shortage of personnel qualified to fill the requirement of instructor pilot in the assault helicopter companies. Presently, the aviators who are qualified are aviators in command positions or other critical positions and are unable to perform IP duties. There is a constant requirement for IP's due to the quantity of newly rated aviators in proportion to the number of experienced aviators being assigned. This condition requires that some newly rated aviators be trained for IP duties. This takes considerable time because of mission requirements of aircraft. Units are now training aviators for units newly arrived in-country, requiring an even heavier load on the few IP's available. New in-country aviators require at least one IP ride.

Observation: More emphasis should be placed on increased IP training at Ft Rucker due to the facilities and environment available. Strong consideration should be given to sending individuals returning for a second tour to IP school enroute and assigning them to assault helicopter units. This would insure some instructor pilot experience, other than those in command positions.



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D. INTELLIGENCE:

1. (C) Item: Requirement for organic Military Intelligence support.

Discussion:

- a. The six battalions and two separate companies assigned to the 12th Combat Aviation Group have a total strength of approximately 1600 officers and warrant officers and 7000 enlisted personnel. As is readily discernable, this organization possesses more officers than a ROAD division, operates more aircraft than an airmobile division, and provides support to units normally found in a type Field Army.
- b. Because of their inherent mobility the units of this group, although co-located at base camps with other major organizations whom they generally support, must also be responsible to support operations conducted throughout the III CTZ and on occasion in other Corps Tactical Zones as well.
- c. The intelligence positions authorized aviation units by TOE/MTOE are insufficient to provide their respective commanders with the full scope of the intelligence EEI required for evaluating courses of action.
- d. The requirement for Combat Intelligence and security support peculiar to Army Aviation needs is currently being partially fulfilled by Military Intelligence Detachments in support of divisions or major commands within the Field Force organization. These detachments cannot allocate sufficient effort to meet aviation requirements without degrading their responsiveness to the organization which they primarily support.

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e. Current concepts do not visualize the need for a MI detachment to support a combat aviation group based on the premise that Aviation does not have a primary tactical role or tactical mission. In other words, Army Aviation is considered to be in a combat support type role. However, the conduct of Combat Assaults, Eagle Flights, and separate employment of helicopter fire teams indicates that Army Aviation in Vietnam is, in fact, directly engaged in combat operations. The following information relative to enemy losses directly attributable to Army Aviation activities in III Corps Tactical Zone is indicative that in a counter-insurgency environment Army Aviation not only provides mobility but is also a highly effective offensive force:

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Confirmed KBA	276	268	240	784
Estimated KBA	158	91	75	324
Confirmed WIA	9	39	6	54
Estimated WIA	23	32	3	58
Structures Damaged	109	46	40	195
Structures Destroyed	454	286	234	974
Sampans Damaged	13	14	5	32
Sampans Destroyed	369	291	201	861
PW's Captured	31	3	3	37

f. As Army Aviation operations in Vietnam have expanded, it is quite evident that consideration should be given to forming an MI Detachment to be placed in direct support of a Combat Aviation Group. The type MI Detachment required would be one which could supply the Group Commander and subordinate Battalion Commanders with the combat

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intelligence, security, and counter-intelligence needs peculiar to a far ranging widespread offensive organization.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that consideration be given towards the development and assignment of an Army Aviation oriented MI Detachment to each Combat Aviation Group.

E. LOGISTICS:

1. (C) Item: Common Hardware Conex Containers.

Discussion: New units (190th & 188th) have arrived in-country without hardware Conex containers.

Observation: One new unit had its aircraft hardware containers received by Consolidated Supply, Ft Campbell, Ky. After the unit received movement orders, supply transactions were terminated. The consolidated supply agency "agreed" to forward the hardware Conex to Vietnam. As of this date the container has not arrived. All depots in the Saigon/Long Binh area have been checked with negative results. The 34th General Support Group is aware of the problem and is working on a solution.

2. (C) Item: AH-1G arrived in-country without complete armament sub-systems.

Discussion: The AH-1G aircraft were to arrive in-country with complete armament sub-systems. However, when the aircraft arrived, the sub-systems were not included and they did not arrive until some time later.

Observation: The problem of the weapons not being installed on the AH-1G was caused by an apparent breakdown in coordination between WECOM and AVCOM. When it was decided to speed up the shipment

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of the aircraft to Vietnam. WDCOM did not have the weapon systems available for shipment. Much time and effort was expended in getting the weapons systems married-up with the AH-1G in-country. Closer planning and coordination in CONUS would prevent undue diversions from the combat effort in Vietnam.

3. (U) Item: New units are arriving in-country with a high percent of RVN returnees.

Discussion: Units arriving with RVN returnees have a great advantage over units with very few or no RVN returnees.

Observation: It has been noted that units arriving with RVN returnees in command positions are better equipped, have higher morale, and fewer problems. From the maintenance standpoint these units are better equipped to maintain their assigned aircraft once they become operational.

4. (U) Item: Dust suppression of helicopter areas.

Discussion: Aviation units have no organic means to cope with the dust problems encountered in Vietnam during the dry season, except by requesting dust suppression treatment from local installation assets. At virtually all stations the equipment is in short supply and in heavy demand. In some areas it is non-existent. It is imperative that helicopter landing, refueling, and parking areas be treated adequately and repeatedly for two reasons; first, for flight safety and second, for maintenance. Small dispensers have been programmed by the 1st Aviation Brigade for local fabrication, and some units have been experimenting on their own. These small items will greatly assist in suppressing dust in small areas but will not be adequate to treat the overall helicopter complex.

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Recommendation: Additional asphalt distributors should be issued to each installation to augment present Engineer and/or PA&E resources. Top priority must be directed to provide application of asphalt or peniprime to helicopter landing areas.

F. SIGNAL:

1. (C) Item: AN/VSC-2

Discussion: The Radio Set AN/VSC-2 is being assigned to battalion headquarters and remotely located companies. This facility provides secure command/operations RATT nets as a back up to the sole-user telephone circuits. It is also used for the rapid dissemination of perishable information.

Observation: Additional training for operators and maintenance personnel down to company level is required to effectively use this equipment.

2. (C) Item: Radio Beacon AN/GRN-6 and AN/TRN-25.

Discussion: The portable radio beacon AN/TRN-25 was not a satisfactory replacement for the AN/GRN-6.

Observation: The rehabilitation of the AN/GRN-6 beacons by the CONUS Depot will give tactical aviation units the much needed navaid required at remotely located airfields. The deployment to RVN of a team to modify the AN/TRN-25 may correct the problems with this equipment.

3. (C) Item: Avionics Equipment Shortages

Discussion: Signal Detachments (RL) and Transportation Detachments (AB) continue to arrive in-country with shortages of test equipment and float items. Some equipment is obtained from in-country

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resources. However, the float items continue to be the biggest problem area.

OBSERVATION: TOE mission essential equipment and float items must be provided Signal Detachments (RL) and Transportation Detachments (AB) before deployment to RVN.

G. MEDICAL:

1. (U) Item: Preventative measures against malaria.

a. Malaria is a parasitic disease carried by the bite of the mosquito which permits the injection of microscopic organisms (parasites) to enter the blood stream and inhabit the red corpuscles. Treatment can be very involved, lengthy and discouraging. Many times the disease is fatal.

b. Preventive measures such as mosquito nets, insect repellent (aerosol and locally applied), and the required taking of the weekly anti-malarial pill should be faithfully followed by all individuals, and mosquito breeding grounds should be eliminated.

Observation: In general the use of the above preventive measures is excellent; however, there is a small percentage who do not cooperate, thus exposing and endangering the life of the ignoring individual and those of his colleagues. It is this small percentage which presents the stumbling block for the complete eradication of the disease. It is important to note the necessary precautions on return to the U.S., since failure to do so only threatens the health of their families. The antimalarial pill must be taken weekly for a period of eight weeks upon return to CONUS.

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PART II

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. PERSONNEL: None

B. OPERATIONS: None

C. TRAINING-ORGANIZATION:

1. (U) Recommend that experienced warrant officer aviators returning to Vietnam attend an IP course in the UH-1.

D. INTELLIGENCE:

1. (C) Recommend that an Army Aviation orientated MI Detachment be assigned to each combat aviation group. This is vitally needed in light of the intelligence gathering role of the air cavalry squadron assigned to the group.

E. LOGISTICS:

1. (U) Recommend that additional asphalt distributors be assigned to each installation that supports aviation units.

F. SIGNAL:

1. (U) Recommend emphasis be placed on training requirements of personnel being deployed to RVN on the AN/VSC-2 and other new equipment being issued to aviation units.

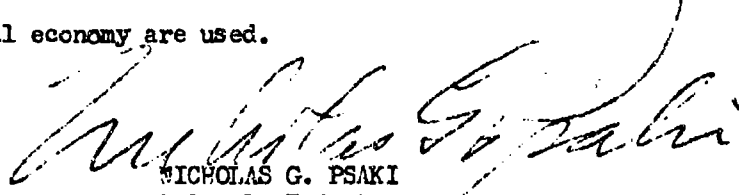
2. (U) Recommend that continued testing be done on the AN/TRN-25 radio beacon to provide a reliable navaid for tactical aviation units.

3. (C) Recommend action be taken in CONUS to preclude Signal Detachments (RL) and Transportation Detachments (AB) from being deployed without sufficient float and mission essential TOE equipment. This should include work shelters and power units.

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G. MEDICAL:

It is noted that there have been varied complaints for generalized recurring skin rashes throughout the command. It is felt that persistent everprevalent fungal organisms are contributing greatly to the cause. It is recommended that when possible potable water should be used in the shower systems. All laundry that comes in contact with human skin must be thoroughly washed with sufficient soap, rinsed, and dried, preferably sun-dried. Hootch maids must be instructed on proper washing and thorough rinsing procedures. Those individuals who have a resistant problem are advised to use detergent and bleach mixture to wash underclothes. In most cases such treatment is successful. Supervisory measures should be instituted wherever the laundries on the local economy are used.

  
NICHOLAS G. PSAKI  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

ANNEXES: A - 12th Combat Aviation Group Structure

B - 12th Combat Aviation Group Troop List

Withdrawn, Hqs, ~~C - 12th Combat Aviation Group Orientation Folder~~  
DA

D - 12th Combat Aviation Group Statistics

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- 1 Copy to CO, 269th Cbt Avn Bn
- 1 Copy to CO, 3/17 Air Cav



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AVFBC-RE-H (11 Nov 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 October 1967 (RCS/CSFOR-65) (UIC-WDFU TO)

DA HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 30 NOV 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBA-G, APO 96307

Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375


Commander in Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached report and concurs with the comments and recommendations with the following exception:

Section II, p(30), para(D,1), Requirement for organic Military Intelligence support. The requirement for a corps level combat aviation group to have an organic or attached Military Intelligence Detachment is not considered valid. The 219 MI Det attached to this headquarters produces, collates and disseminates to all organic, assigned and attached units the intelligence required for mission accomplishment. The 12th Combat Aviation Group is informed daily and by periodic summary of the intelligence situation in III CTZ.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
R. E. WAMBESCH  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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AVBA-C (11 Nov 67)

2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (ORLL) (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967 (UIC CYP A) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, ATTN: AVBA-C, APO 96384

DEC 7 1967

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375  
Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPDP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army  
(ACSFOR DA), Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed subject report of the 12th Combat Aviation Group and considers it to be adequate as indorsed and concurs with the contents except as noted below.

2. (C) The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Reference Section I, paragraph F9e, page 18: Intelligence. It is recognized that the 12th Group school quotas for the Navy Jungle Environmental Survival Training School (JEST) are insufficient to meet minimal requirements. Only a limited number of school quotas are received by 1st Aviation Brigade and these quotas must be divided equitably between two combat aviation groups and two separate battalions. This headquarters has initiated action to obtain additional quotas. Upon receipt of these quotas the 12th Combat Aviation Group will receive their fair share.

b. Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph D, page 30: Intelligence. Nonconcur. Insufficient justification has been established to warrant the development and assignment of an Army aviation oriented MI detachment to each combat aviation group. It is assumed that the concept of employment would be to utilize the detachment intact at group headquarters. Strength requirements to provide adequate combat intelligence and security support for the group headquarters and each battalion at widely separated locations would be prohibitive. If the detachment were employed intact at group headquarters, it would not be immediately responsive to individual battalion requirements. Because of the fact that few operations are planned and controlled by group headquarters, the existence of a MI detachment at group headquarters cannot be justified. Additionally, the most current combat intelligence about a particular area of operations can be obtained from the supported unit and from the major units collocated at the base camp with the aviation battalion.

c. Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph E4, page 33: Small penprime dispensers referred to were received, and issued to all assault helicopter units, for repair of penprimed areas.

d. Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph D, page 36: Intelligence. Nonconcur. See rationale in para 2b above.

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Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Unclassified after 12 years.  
DOD Dir 5200.10

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DEC 7 1967

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AVBA-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (ORLL) (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967 (UIC CYP A) (U)

e. Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph E, page 36: Reference  
HQ USARV unclassified message AVHGC-DST 85105, DTG 170224Z Nov 67, subject:  
Penepime Distributors (ENSURE 176). 36 each bituminous distributors were  
issued to all divisions. The 1st Aviation Brigade did not receive any of these  
distributors. Concur that additional distributors should be issued to instal-  
lations supporting brigade aviation units.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
JAMES M. GOLDMANN  
LTJ, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (11 Nov 67) 3d Ind (C)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORLL) (RCS CSFOR-65)  
for Quarterly Period ending 31 October 1967 (UIC CYPA)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 26 JAN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 12th Combat Aviation Group (CYPA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning survival school, page 18, paragraph F9e; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2a: Concur with 2d Indorsement. Survival school quotas received by USARV are inadequate to meet command requirements. However, PACAF has agreed to provide twenty spaces per month to their Air Crew Survival Course in the Philippines. This will alleviate this situation to some degree. 1st Aviation Brigade will have equitable access to these spaces.

b. Reference item concerning dust suppression of helicopter areas, page 33, paragraph E4; page 36, paragraph E1; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2e: Concur. The following action has been taken to improve the problems encountered by aviation units in Vietnam:

(1) In June 1966, Engineer Command was issued 20 trailer-mounted distributors in addition to those authorized by the TOE. Currently these distributors are located throughout Vietnam in support of all units.

(2) In February 1967, USARV initiated an ENSURE requirement for 36 additional distributors for the divisional engineer battalions, and separate brigade engineer companies. The allocation of these distributors was coordinated with USARV Aviation, who concurred in the proposed distribution.

(3) Ten distributors have arrived in-country and the remaining 26 are scheduled to arrive before 31 January 1968.

c. Reference item concerning avionics equipment shortages, page 34, paragraph F3; and page 36, paragraph F3: Concur. Units scheduled for deployment to RVN should not be delayed because of maintenance float or mission essential TOE equipment shortages. Detachment size units will requisition maintenance float and TOE equipment shortages upon arrival in Vietnam. Recommend that CONUS supply activities make every effort to insure that deploying

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AVHGC-DST (11 Nov 67)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORLL) (RCS CSFOR-65)  
for Quarterly Period ending 31 October 1967 (UIC CYPA)

units do not have equipment shortages.

d. Reference item concerning training and organization, page 36, paragraph 1: Nonconcur. Requirements for UH-1 instructor pilots in RVN are not great enough to warrant the additional time and expense of a blanket training program. Should a requirement for an instructor pilot exist, the experienced returnee aviator can be trained in-country with a minimum of instruction.

e. Reference item concerning AN/VSC-2, page 36, paragraph F1: Concur. The AN/VSC-2 and AN/GRC-106 maintenance and operator training has been incorporated into the Southeast Asia Signal School since September 1967. Additionally, there are two factory representatives and two ECOM representatives in-country who are trained on these two items of equipment. If remedial training is required, requests should be submitted to the USARV ACofS, CE.

f. Reference item concerning the AN/TRN-25, page 36, paragraph F2: Concur. Continued testing is being conducted by the laboratories of ECOM. At the present time, work is being performed on brushless motors to alleviate the problems we have experienced with short brush life and motor burn-out. This fix should be fielded soon and the sets will be further modified at that time.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*C. S. Nakatsukasa*  
C. S. NAKATSUKASA  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

cy furn:

HQ, 12th Combat Avn Gp  
HQ, 1st Avn Bde

# CONFIDENTIAL

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GPOP-DT(11 Nov 67) 4th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period  
Ending 31 Oct 67 from Hq, 12th Cbt Avn Gp  
(UIC: WCYDAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96358 27 FEB 1968

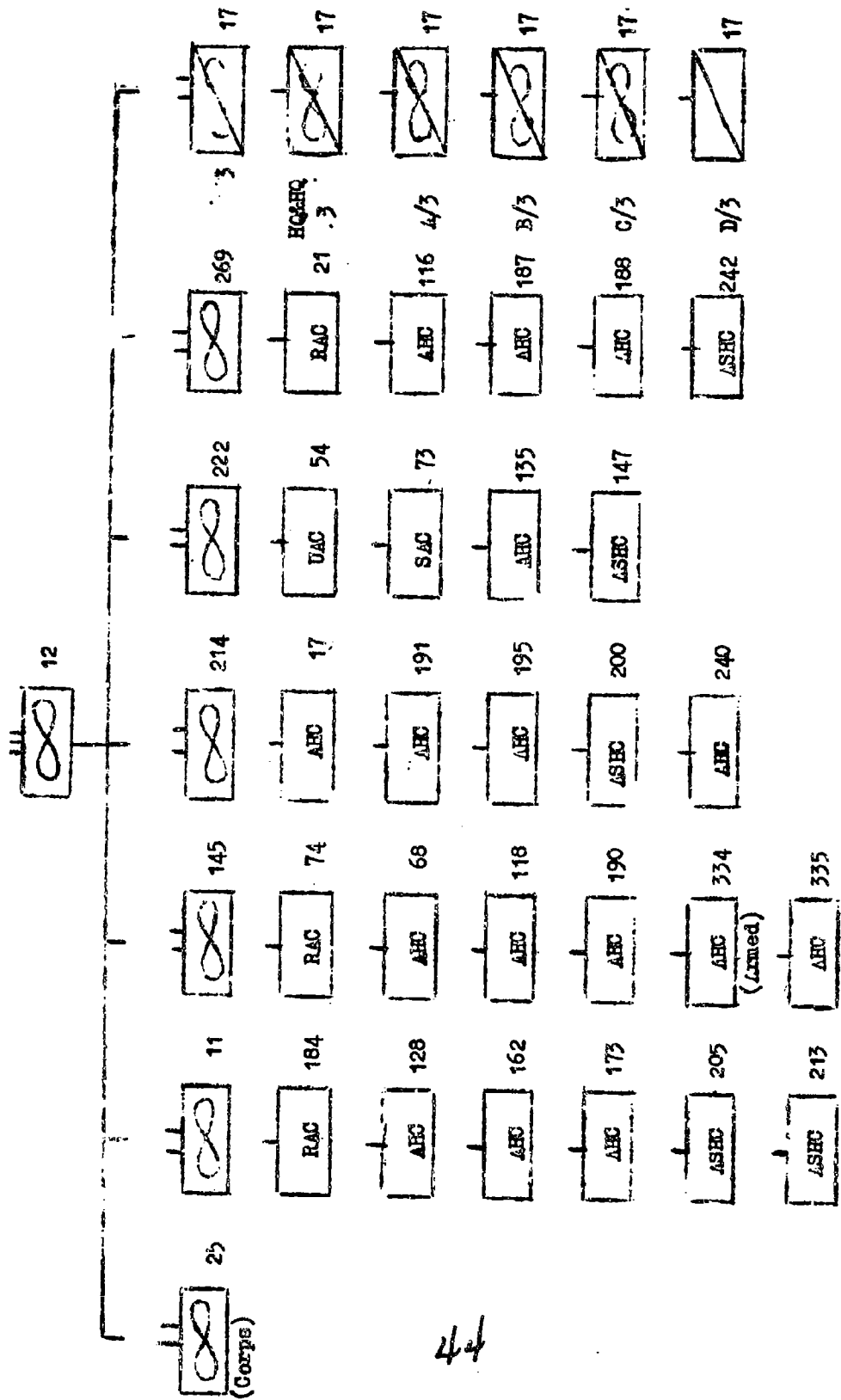
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,  
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and  
forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as  
indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*K. F. Osbourn*  
K. F. OSBOURN  
MAJ, AGC  
Asst AG

ANNEX A



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12th Combat Aviation Group  
Troop List

UNIT	LOCATION	AFO
<u>12th COMBAT AVN GF</u>	Long Binh	96266
HQ & HQ Co	Long Binh	96266
338th Avn Det (OP)	(Attch 1st Log Comd)	
340th Avn Det (OP)	(Attch 1st Inf Div)	
341st Avn Det ( )	(Attch 25th Inf Div)	
87th QM Det (PETRL)	(Attch 54th Arty Gp)	
390th QM Det (PETRL)	(Attch 25th Inf Div)	
391st QM Det (PETRL)	(Attch 1st Inf Div)	
9th SC Det (RI)	(Attch 11th ACR)	
25th Avn Co (Corps)	Long Binh	96266
<u>11th COMBAT AVN BN</u>	Phu Loi	96289
HQ & HQ Co	Phu Loi	96289
128th Aslt Hel Co	Phu Loi	96289
393rd TC Det (KD)	Phu Loi	96289
285th SC Det (RI)	Phu Loi	96289
432nd Med Det (OA)	Phu Loi	96289
162nd Aslt Hel Co	Phuoc Vinh	96289
407th TC Det (KD)	Phuoc Vinh	96289
450th SC Det (RI)	Phuoc Vinh	96289
758th Med Det (OA)	Phuoc Vinh	96289
173rd Aslt Hel Co	Lai Khe	96289
408th TC Det (KD)	Lai Khe	96289
451st SC Det (RI)	Lai Khe	96289
759th Med Det (OA)	Lai Khe	96289
184th Recon Apl Co	Phu Loi	96289
243rd SC Det (RL)	Phu Loi	96289
205th Aslt Spt Hel Co	Phu Loi	96289
612th TC Det (AB)	Phu Loi	96289
213th Aslt Spt Hel Co	Phu Loi	96289
329th TC Det (AB)	Phu Loi	96289
<u>145th COMBAT AVN BN</u>	Bien Hoa	96227
HQ & HQ Co	Bien Hoa	96227
145th Sec Flat	Bien Hoa	96227
68th Aslt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
391st TC Det (KD)	Bien Hoa	96227
282nd SC Det (RI)	Bien Hoa	96227
430th Med Det (OA)	Bien Hoa	96227

ANNEX B

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AFO</u>
74th Recon Apl Co	Phu Loi	96289
563rd TC Det (KD)	Phu Loi	96289
118th Aslt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
573rd TC Det (KD)	Bien Hoa	96227
198th SC Det (RL)	Bien Hoa	96227
190th Aslt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
605th TC Det (KD)	Bien Hoa	96227
520th Med Det (OA)	Bien Hoa	96227
334th Aslt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
571st TC Det (KD)	Bien Hoa	96227
320th SC Det (RL)	Phu Loi	96289
335th Aslt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
166th TC Det (KD)	Bien Hoa	96227
234th SC Det (RL)	Bien Hoa	96227
25th Med Det (OA)	Bien Hoa	96227
<u>214TH COMBAT AVN BN</u>	Bear Cat	96370
HQ & HQ Co	Bear Cat	96370
772nd Med Det (OA)	Bear Cat	96370
17th Aslt Hel Co	Long Binh	96266
613th TC Det (KD)	Long Binh	96266
722nd SC Det (RL)	Long Binh	96266
93rd Med Det (AO)	Long Binh	96266
191st Aslt Hel Co	Bear Cat	96370
606th TC Det (KD)	Bear Cat	96370
26th SC Det (RL)	Bear Cat	96370
195th Aslt Hel Co	Long Binh	96266
609th TC Det (KD)	Long Binh	96266
366th SC Det (RL)	Long Binh	96266
200th Aslt Spt Hel Co	Bear Cat	96370
611th TC Det (AB)	Bear Cat	96370
240th Aslt Hel Co	Bear Cat	96370
619th TC Det (KD)	Bear Cat	96370
932nd SC Det (RL)	Bear Cat	96370

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AFO</u>
<u>222ND COMBAT SPT AVN BN</u>	Vung Tau	96291
HQ & H Co	Vung Tau	96291
85th Med Det (OA)	Vung Tau	96291
54th Util Apl Co	Vung Tau	96291
255th TC Det (KD)	Vung Tau	96291
73rd Surv Apl Co	Vung Tau	96291
135th Aslt Hel Co	Vung Tau	96291
614th TC Det (KD)	Vung Tau	96291
68th SC Det (RL)	Vung Tau	96291
147th Aslt Spt Hel Co	Vung Tau	96291
171st TC Det (AB)	Vung Tau	96291
<u>269TH COMBAT AVN BN</u>	Cu Chi	96353
HQ & H Co	Cu Chi	96353
21st Recon Apl Co	Tay Ninh	96256
622nd SC Det (RI)	Tay Ninh	96256
116th Aslt Hel Co	Cu Chi	96353
392nd TC Det (KD)	Cu Chi	96353
283rd SC Det (RL)	Cu Chi	96353
431st Med Det (OA)	Cu Chi	96353
187th Aslt Hel Co	Tay Ninh	96256
602nd TC Det (KD)	Tay Ninh	96256
1st SC Det (RL)	Tay Ninh	96256
541st Med Det (OA)	Tay Ninh	96256
188th Aslt Hel Co	Dau Tieng	96268
603rd TC Det (KD)	Dau Tieng	96268
4th SC Det (RL)	Dau Tieng	96268
154th Med Det (OA)	Dau Tieng	96268
242nd Aslt Spt Hel Co	Bien Hoa	96227
621st TC Det (AB)	Bien Hoa	96227
<u>3rd Sqn 17th Air Cavalry</u>	Di An	96345
HQ & H Co TROOP	Di An	96345
A Troop	Di An	96345
B Troop	Di An	96345
C Troop	Di An	96345
D Troop	Di An	96345
39th TC Det	Di An	96345

# 12TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP STATISTICS

## OPERATIONAL HOURS

RW	FW	TOTAL
106,425	34,053	140,478

## SORTIES FLOWN

RW	FW	TOTAL
317,709	29,071	346,780

## COMBAT SORTIES FLOWN

RW	FW	TOTAL
169,768	0	169,768

## PASSENGERS CARRIED

RW	FW	TOTAL
672,191	18,935	691,126

## CARGO TRANSPORTED (TONS)

RW	FW	TOTAL
96,706	733	97,439

## A/O HIT BY GROUND FIRE

RW	FW	TOTAL
300	38	338

## COMBAT LOSSES (ACFT)

RW	FW	TOTAL
17	3	20

## AMMUNITION EXPENDED

7.62mm	40mm	2.75"	50 CAL.
12,246,614	125,981	54,778	46,774

ANNEX D

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ENEMY LOSSES/DAMAGE INFLICTED

KIA (BODY COUNT)----- 784  
KIA (ESTIMATED)----- 324  
VC CAPTURED----- 37  
STRUCTURES DESTROYED---- 974  
SAMPANS DESTROYED/SUNK-- 861  
SAMPANS DAMAGED----- 32

CASUALTIES MEDICALLY EVACUATED (ARVN & US)

1197

CASUALTIES (12TH CBT AVN GP)

KIA----- 5  
WIA----- 97  
MIA----- 7

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